

Birmingham file
December 17, 1963

MEMORANDUM

Most progress which has been made to date in Birmingham, Alabama, in breaking down the rigid racial caste system has come only after pressure from court order, court action, public demonstrations or public tragedy.

1) Public Transportation

Facilities of the Birmingham Transit Company were desegregated only after federal court orders were entered enjoining the Transit Company from maintaining segregated facilities and enjoining Birmingham officials from using the Birmingham police to maintain segregated seating.

2) Interstate Terminals

It took another federal court order to prevent city officials from enforcing a policy of segregation in waiting rooms and rest rooms in the train terminals in Birmingham. In the Spring of 1962 the facilities of the new Municipal Airport were desegregated, again by court order.

3) Schools

In the Fall of 1963, five Negro students were admitted to three white Birmingham schools under federal court order. Prior to that time all schools in Birmingham were segregated. Chart A, attached, shows the relative educational opportunities in the State of Alabama for whites and Negroes since 1912.

4) Public Parks

Faced with a court order to desegregate all recreational facilities by January 15, 1962, the City of Birmingham on January 1, 1962, closed all its parks, playgrounds, and swimming pools with the exception of the Ross and Legion Field. Only recently have some of these facilities been reopened on a part-time basis.

5) Voting

On July 31, 1963, the Department of Justice filed a complaint alleging discrimination in the registration process in Jefferson County, Alabama. It alleged the following statistics:

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
Voting Age Population	256,319	116,160
Registered Voters	c. 120,000	c. 14,000

The complaint also alleged that in the 3-1/2 year period prior to July, 1963, the applications of about 2,500 Negroes were rejected and the applications of about 300 whites were rejected or, in effect, that one out of every three Negroes who applied for registration was rejected, while only one in 50 whites was rejected. The complaint further alleged that 2,032 of the Negroes rejected were discriminated against. The complaint alleged numerous methods by which discrimination was effected. In October, 1963, two new members were appointed to the Board of Registrars. Since that time, of 1,100 Negro applicants, only 20 to 30 have been rejected.

6) Public Accommodations

The demonstrations that took place in April and May, 1963, in Birmingham were aimed at segregated practices of large department stores in Birmingham. An agreement was reached by Negro and white leaders that ended the demonstrations. The main features of the agreement, which covered the larger department stores, were (1) that lunch counters in these stores would be desegregated; (2) that Negro employment would be upgraded and that, as variously reported, all, some, or at least one department store would employ some or at least one Negro clerk; (3) that racial signs would be removed from water fountains, dressing room and rest room facilities. The first and third parts of this agreement were honored, but so far only one Negro clerk has been hired by one store, and she was fired after two or three days for "stealing".

7) Bi-racial Committee

In May of 1963, plans were formulated to have the city government set up a Bi-racial Advisory Committee. This committee was appointed only after the bombings in September. The Committee, though disagreement within the Committee existed, has recommended to city officials that the following steps be taken:

- a) The hiring of Negro policemen.
- b) New job opportunities for Negroes in the city government. (Negroes hold only janitorial positions or positions in which they deal only with other Negroes.)
- c) Appointment of Negroes to various city boards.
- d) Institute a city-wide training program for school drop-outs.
- e) Desegregation of city facilities.

All of these proposals have been rejected or not acted upon by the City Council.

8) Employment

The following table illustrates the discrimination that exists in private employment in the Birmingham area. The figures are taken from reports of large industrial concerns in Birmingham and show that some such companies have no Negro employees at all; that only a very few companies have Negroes in white collar positions, and that those companies only have very few Negroes in these positions. Most of the white collar jobs filled by Negroes are probably messenger-type jobs.

	Number of Establishments		Employment		Percent Negro to Total
	Total	With Negroes	Total Workers Employed	Negroes Employed	
<u>ALL OCCUPATIONS</u>					
1962	31	24	12,935	2,548	19.7
1953	37	30	12,214	2,967	16.0
<u>WHITE COLLAR JOBS</u>					
1962	31	5	4,153	14	0.3
1953	35	9	6,441	76	1.2
<u>BLUE COLLAR JOBS</u>					
1962	29	24	8,777	2,535	28.9
1953	34	30	11,773	2,631	24.4

Some large Government contractors have taken steps to end such things as discrimination in hiring, discrimination in lay-offs, discrimination in on-the-job training programs, discrimination in promotion, placement and upgrading, and to end segregation of plant facilities. These changes have been instituted because of pressures by United States Government agencies contracting with such companies. Until very recently one of the largest employers in the Birmingham area maintained job classifications on a racial basis; Negroes were not allowed to advance in pay or job opportunities to a level which could be reached by the average white worker. This employment discrimination has had a decided effect on the Negro community in Birmingham.

A chart, (Chart B) based upon the 1960 census, is attached comparing Birmingham with Atlanta, Boston, and New York with respect to percentages of white and non-white employment in particular industries.

9) Economic Welfare and Unemployment

The median family income in the Birmingham area in 1959 of Negroes in Birmingham was \$2,944, while the median

family income for both Negro and white was \$5,103. Therefore, the median income for white families would be somewhat above even this last figure.

National unemployment rates show that Negroes unemployed now outnumber whites by a ratio of 2-1. Birmingham probably approximates the national figures. (Note here that the city of Birmingham employs only a small number of Negroes and only in menial-type positions.) The following table, based upon the 1960 census, show the percentage of total unemployment in Birmingham, and three other cities, compared with the percentage of Negro unemployment:

UNEMPLOYMENT

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Non-white</u>
Atlanta	3.6%	4.1%
Birmingham	6.7%	11.1%
Boston	5.6%	7.6%
New York	5.0%	6.5%

10) Articles

Articles appearing in national news media are attached dealing with (a) the situation in Birmingham following the September bombing, and (b) the economic impact of desegregation.

CHART A

Education Figures

(From Annual Reports of State Board
of Education - Statewide Figures)

Year - 1912

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
I. Enrollment	289,246	136,272
II. Number of Teachers	8,849	2,781
III. Teacher-Pupil Ratio (Based on Total Enrollment)	32.69	49.00
IV. Value of School Buildings	\$10,829,366	\$901,368
Value of Equipment	\$ 565,429	\$ 87,521
Value of Libraries	167,820	6,332
V. Average Yearly Salary		
County) Male	\$ 410	\$ 175
) Female	334	155
City) Male	\$ 1,160	\$ 468
) Female	509	326

Year - 1922

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
I. Enrollment	412,347	180,263
II. Number of Teachers	10,860	3,070
III. Teacher-Pupil Ratio (Based on Total Enrollment)	37.97	53.72
IV. Value of Building and Equipment (Per pupil)		
Rural	\$ 39.88	\$ 9.29
City	92.14	20.19
Cost per pupil (except indebtedness)		
Elementary	\$ 31.78	\$ 8.56
High School	79.65	44.84
V. Average Yearly Salary		
Rural) Male	\$ 464.00	\$ 202.00
) Female	427.00	227.00
City) Male	\$ -----	\$ 420.00
) Female	938.00	535.00

Year - 1932

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
I. Enrollment	432,697	267,137
II. Number of Teachers	12,774	4,305
III. Teacher-Pupil Ratio (Based on Average Daily Attendance)	26	35
IV. Value of Building and Equipment (Per pupil ratio)		
Expenditure per pupil	\$ 32.33	\$ 8.55
Property value per pupil	119.45	24.77
V. Average Yearly Salaries		
Total	\$ 798.00	\$ 337.00

Year - 1941

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
I. Enrollment	552,033	299,437
II. Number of Teachers	13,851	5,657
III. Teacher-Pupil Ratio (Based on Average Daily Attendance)	26.4	34.6
IV. Value of School Buildings		
Rural	\$30,950,304	\$ 2,334,436
City	20,809,509	3,391,678
State	51,647,983	5,726,174
Expense per pupil	47.09	14.64
V. Average Yearly Salary		
Elementary	\$ 703.00	\$ 363.00
High School	1,012.00	534.00

Year - 1952

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
I. Enrollment	439,901	229,373
II. Number of Teachers	14,863	7,490
III. Teacher-Pupil Ratio (Based on Average Daily Attendance)	25.8	27.2
IV. Current Expense Per Pupil (Based on Average Daily Attendance)	\$ 139.64	\$ 107.84
V. Average Yearly Salary	\$ 2,551.00	\$ 2,359.00

Year - 1959

	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
I. Enrollment	500,722	267,250
II. Number of Teachers	17,339	8,545
III. Teacher-Pupil Ratio (Based on Average Daily Attendance)	26.5	27.9
IV. Current Expense Per Pupil (Based on Average Daily Attendance)	\$ 175.84	150.12
V. Average Yearly Salary	\$3,302.00	\$3,438.00

These figures show that only following the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education has Alabama made its separate facilities substantially equal (in the sense that the physical facilities are equal). The design is to discourage Negroes from applying to white schools.

These charts do not reveal such inequities as higher educational preparation of white teachers, the greater number of accredited white grammar schools, high schools, academic colleges, and state teacher colleges. Nor do the figures reveal disparities in existing physical plants of white and Negro schools. The state ceased to report "value of school buildings" sometime before 1952.

CHART B

FOR THE SELECTED STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

The following are comparative statistics for particular categories of employment in the selected areas showing the percentage of whites and non-whites employed.

These statistics should be evaluated in the light of the fact that 35% of the total population of Birmingham is non-white as opposed to 22.7% in Atlanta, 9% in Boston, and 11.4% in New York. For the purpose of presenting an accurate comparison a "weighted percentile" has been supplied. This shows that relationship between actual Negro employment in the industry and city and the amount of Negro employment which would exist if Negroes were employed in strict proportion to the Negro population. Thus, if the weighted percentile for an industry and city is, for example, 50%, Negroes have 50% fewer jobs than would result if they were employed strictly on the basis of population. Conversely if the weighted percentile is, for example, 135%, 35% more Negroes are employed in the industry than would be employed if the strict proportion prevailed.

	<u>CERAMICAL</u>		
	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Non-Whites</u>	<u>Weighted Percentile</u>
Birmingham	94%	6%	117%
Atlanta	94%	6%	27%
Boston	98%	2%	67%
New York	94%	6%	55%

	<u>CRAFTS AND FOREMEN</u>		
Birmingham	86%	14%	34%
Atlanta	91%	9%	41%
Boston	96%	4%	67%
New York	93%	7%	64%

	<u>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL</u>		
Birmingham	65%	35%	43%
Atlanta	92%	8%	36%
Boston	96%	4%	67%
New York	94%	6%	55%

MANAGERS AND OFFICIALS

	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Non-Whites</u>	<u>Weighted Non-White</u>
Birmingham	98%	5%	14%
Atlanta	94%	2%	9%
Boston	98%	1%	35%
New York	98%	8%	35%

SALESMEN

Birmingham	95%	5%	14%
Atlanta	98%	2%	9%
Boston	99%	1%	35%
New York	98%	4%	35%

LABORERS OTHER THAN FARM AND MINE

Birmingham	76%	20%	217%
Atlanta	70%	30%	208%
Boston	93%	5%	100%
New York	78%	22%	19%

CONSTRUCTION

Birmingham	75%	25%	71%
Atlanta	77%	25%	105%
Boston	90%	2%	67%
New York	92%	6%	73%

MANUFACTURING

Birmingham	72%	28%	50%
Atlanta	87%	13%	59%
Boston	97%	3%	100%
New York	90%	10%	91%

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Birmingham	91%	9%	20%
Atlanta	88%	12%	50%
Boston	97%	3%	100%
New York	86%	14%	127%

A. BERKOWITZ
SOS BANK FOR SAVINGS BUILDING
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

November 15, 1963

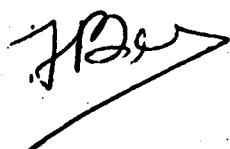
Dear Burke:

I received, in yesterday's mail, an inscribed photograph of Mr. Robert Kennedy for which I have thanked him and thank you, as well.

Enclosed, for its interest, is a feeble effort of my own appearing in today's editorial page, being simply an attempt to preserve some measure of sanity in the relations of the citizens of this state, and the state itself, with their own country.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Mr. Burke Marshall
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Al:
Thanks for your note.
You are a great credit for me,
and I appreciate being of some
use by mail or telephone. You
letter in the Providence is
fine.
Regards,

Blanchard
11-27-69

Voice of the People

President Due Respect

The presidency of our country is a lonely office; its occupant a lonely man.

It is now public knowledge that, in retaliation of attack, the power and duty to destroy half or more of our world is at all times necessarily and actually within physical reach of the President.

Since the H-bomb, the awesome responsibility of the office has increased in a degree which permits little comparison with that existing before.

Political, economic and social tremors in the remotest corners of the globe cause instant necessity for consideration and, often, decision, as well, by the President.

The world and all its ills follow him throughout the day and all the lonely hours of the night, wherever he may be and however engaged.

For these reasons in a world of turmoil and tension, I deeply deplore the local bitter, insensate, irrational and sometimes obscene personal attacks upon the young man who is our President. I would resent them no less, whoever might be the holder of the office. I resent them in the same way and to the same degree that I resented the personal attack upon our governor by Sen. Morse from the privileged floor of the Senate, this despite my disagreement with many of the actions and policies of Gov. Wallace in our relations with the federal government.

Criticism of our presidents and their actions is traditional in American history and a healthy right under our democratic system. Though criticism is seldom tempered with mercy, it would seem that some compassion, which takes into cognizance the burdens and duties of the office of President, ought to be an ingredient of it.

Particularly does it seem to me, from an examination of the letters on your editorial page, compared with those in other parts of the country, that the vulgarity and even obscenity of these personal attacks are endemic here.

I do not know the President. I doubt that few, if any, in our local community who vent their hostility and hate upon him know him either. I do know that he is product and representative of his age and era. This is his world, and the world of all the fine young men of World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, Berlin, "the cold war," and all the other fronts we must man in the years to come to dike the floods which batter against democracy. He and his children and theirs, if there be other than cinders and ashes then to contemplate, will live to stand upon the threshold of the third millennium of the common era.

I do not know the ages of those whose letters fill your editorial page with such harsh and personal indictment of the President. This I do know—whatever their age, they cannot be young in heart. They must not know, as they should, that this is an era of the young—an age of new and youthful ideas, an age of change with much error in it, no doubt, but one which cannot be gainsaid its trial and testing.

For my own part, since adulthood, I have felt and thought that each of our presidents was my President, whatever his political affiliation; that he was as good an American as I; that whether he sought the office for its power or accepted it only out of duty, I owed him the duty of respect, however I might differ with his policies.

Since 1789, just 35 presidents have guided the destinies of our beloved country. In terms of critical history, some have been better, some worse. In totality, no nation has been so fortunately blessed with such a long line of leaders, differing as they have in political affiliation and temperament, for each made some contribution to America's growth and greatness.

Thus, in varying degrees, our presidents have always reflected a full measure of our common intelligence and decency and, above all, our love of country; and we, as the citizens in whom there is the right and power of choice, have never permitted, with hardly an exception, the selection of any man who did not, with all his faults and virtues, represent other than the best common denominator of our own and America's special gifts!

Louis F. Oberdorfer
Assistant Attorney General

28 Oct. 1962

Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General

Lou:

You will be interested in this. Mrs. Lasakow is Rabbi Grafman's secretary. She called me, and is convinced the room in which the biracial meetings are held is bugged. So does the Rabbi, who called later. Typical Birmingham psychosis, although it may be true. I reported this all to Billy Hamilton, except the source of information. He denied any such possibility, and said he would have an electronics expert search the room in the presence of whoever had talked to me. I then advised the Rabbi to go to Billy.

I gathered from the Rabbi's telephone doubletalk that he thinks your pal Vincent Townsend is doing it.

BM

Attachment - ltr. fr.
Mrs. Lasakow

October 15, 1963

NOTE TO MR. MARSHALL
FROM: David L. Norman *DLN*

Mr. J. P. Frey of 609 Grove Street, Birmingham, Alabama stopped in and wanted to speak to someone about Birmingham. He is a small business man there, in the siding business. He is expanding his business and will set up his manufacturing plant in St. Clair County. He states he expects to hire Negroes, if they are qualified.

His purpose in wanting to talk to someone here about Birmingham is that he wants to urge most strongly that the Federal Government bring whatever pressures that can be brought on Martin Luther King and his group to withhold violent action for a few months in order to give the Bi-Racial Committee an opportunity to work out some of the problems. He is confident that the Committee can work out some of the problems. He believes that Dr. King and his group should be encouraged by the Federal Government to exercise their influence on the Negro members of the Committee and to direct their efforts toward voter registration rather than toward demonstrations, marches and other tactics which precipitate violence and which brand Birmingham as the sore spot of the nation.

I told him that it was very helpful to us to have the benefit of the views of responsible people in Birmingham and that I would relay his suggestions to you.

He seems like a very sincere and fine fellow with good instincts. It is clear that his sole purpose for coming here was to impress us in his capacity as a private citizen with the need for moderate action in Birmingham through the machinery of the Bi-Racial Committee and through voter registration.

Birmingham file

VIEWPOINT

AN OFFICIAL OPINION OF

WSB

DICK MENDENHALL Editorial Director

September 16, 1963
THE SHOE FITS

We hope you've read Gene Patterson's Column in this morning's Constitution. It was terrific. and the "shoe" to which he refers most certainly does fit every Southerner who likes to be known as a "responsible" citizen.

The Sunday morning tragedy in Birmingham, Alabama, is one for which we all bear responsibility. It is not easy to point fingers, therefore, in fixing blame. Certainly the dynamiter, or dynamiters, must be found and brought to trial. But these sick people are nothing more than cogs in the machine of hate, anti-democratic, anti-Christian, anti-human devilry brought on in great part by the misguided utterances and actions of Governor George Wallace.

Governor Wallace's position entitles him to unquestioned influence in the social as well as political affairs of Alabama. Because he is Governor, what he says carries weight in his state. He has, thus far, chosen to say nothing that would foster understanding of the racial problems facing Alabamans, and he has, thus far, chosen to say nothing that would promote good relations and understanding between the two races in that State. All that he has said has served to intensify the problem. His statements and actions have created the atmosphere for violence, have in fact invited the attention and praise of diseased minds, and have set the stage for bombings, murders, and riots. Thanks to George Wallace, there is a double-standard of law, of order, of morality, of righteous authority, in Alabama. Thanks to Wallace, weak minds have decided there is justification in whatever they choose to do that bears an anti-Negro, anti-Kennedy, anti-Federal, or anti-Integration label.

And yet, George Wallace is holding to his campaign promise. So even beyond Wallace there is blame, and it lies with those who listened and honored this man's ideas of human relations in Alabama. Wallace was elected to office. He was voted in on a platform of hate and backwardness.

Four young children have died in Sunday School -- thanks to George Wallace, thanks to the voters of Alabama...and thanks to the rest of us.

The shoe fits, as Editor Patterson says.

This is a Cox station affiliated with Journal and Constitution. This big station hits the South including Ala
Regards: *W. H. H. H.*

White Columns

ON PEACHTREE - 1601 WEST PEACHTREE ST., N.E., ATLANTA 9, GA. PHONE 875-7221

Mr. Robert F. Kennedy
The Attorney General

September 19, 1963

Assistant Attorney General Marshall
Assistant Attorney General Oberdorfer

I. There are responsible reports from Birmingham that the Negro community has been terrorized by the series of unsolved bombings, fears of police brutality, such as the shooting of two Negroes throwing rocks, and the state troopers' suppression of a riot after the bombing of the Gaston Motel in May. The Negro community has formed its own extra legal security force and has been unable to establish communication with responsible white leadership. It is charged that the agreement for hiring and upgrading of Negro employees has not been fairly implemented.

II. Negro leaders and white church leaders have publicly urged commitment of federal troops to relieve the Negroes' fear of the bombers and the police.

III. City officials and white leaders have not responded quickly to the suggestion that the city employ Negro police.

IV. White leaders do not seem to sense the urgency of the Negro fears or the validity of their complaints. Many white leaders continue to blame the difficulties on the Reverend Martin Luther King, Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and federal interference, or focus entirely on the bombers without reflection on the full implications of continued segregation, discrimination and hostility toward federal law.

V. We are recommending that the President appoint a committee in the manner contemplated by the Community Relations Service of the pending Civil Rights Bill (Title IV). Possible members of this committee would be Allen Dulles, General Kenneth Royal, Earl Blaik, Bruce Bromley, General Lucius Clay, Irwin Miller and Henry Alexander.

VI. We suggest that the committee be appointed promptly, today, if possible, and that they proceed immediately to Birmingham.

VII. The committee's objectives should include the following:

A. Ascertain and if possible persuade local officials to carry out the steps necessary to reassure the Negro population about public safety. For example:

(i) They should do whatever is necessary to persuade the county and city officials to deputize or otherwise regularize the extra legal Negro police force;

(ii) Critically examine the investigation being conducted by federal and state officials of the prior bombings and the steps which may be necessary to prevent or improve the possibility of solving future bombings.

(iii) Critically examine the past and future role of the state troopers;

(iv) Critically examine the role of the State National Guard;

(v) Make a rapid determination of the need, if any, for regular federal troops and recommendations as to the circumstances, if any, which may require their service in Birmingham in the future.

B. Establish and perfect communication between the white and Negro leadership. This may be accomplished by--

(i) Meetings with the Mayor and city council;

(ii) Meetings with the Citizens Committee appointed by the Mayor;

(iii) Meetings with church leaders;

(iv) Meetings with labor leaders;

(v) Meetings with business leaders;

(vi) Determining what is necessary to cause white and Negro leaders to sit down together and then hold such a meeting or series of meetings;

(vii) Implement the May agreement about discrimination of public facilities and employment by meetings with the Citizens Committee, industrial, banking and mercantile business leaders. This will include ascertaining the availability of qualified Negro employees and ~~literally forcing~~ *urging strongly* the employers to accept them.

Ernest Angell
Robert Bierstedt
Algernon D. Black
Ralph S. Brown
Robert C. Crowell
Edward C. Egan
Luther E. Evans
James H. Frost
Oscar H. Frost

Walter Crane
Lewin Colburn
Walter Colburn
Louis M. Harber
August Heckerling
Frank S. Horne
D. W. Huchens
Sophie Yarnall Jacobs
John Paul Jones
Dorothy Keynon
Dan Lacy
Will Maslow
Henry C. McCreer
Edward O. Miller
Walter Millin
Gerard Piel
Harriet Pilpel
Herbert Prosser
Elmer Rice
George Soil
Stephen C. Viadeth
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Prof. J. Frank Dabin (Texas)
Eloyd K. Garrison (N.Y.)
Dr. Frank P. Graham (U.N.)
Palmer Hoyt (Colo.)
Dr. Karl Menninger (Kans.)
Loren Miller (Calif.)
Morris Rubio (Wisc.)
William K. Smith (Ga.)

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Legal Director

Louise C. Floyd
Administrative Assistant

Colleen Katsowitz
Membership Secretary

Asya Nator
Field Development Officer

September 25, 1963

Hon. Burke Marshall
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Burke:

The one thing Chuck Morgan needs now - both for his own sake and for the sake of moving responsible whites in the South, particularly lawyers - is vocal support from the nation's leaders. The Attorney-General has spoken about the duty of lawyers, and I believe the President has also. Can't the Administration come out and explicitly support Morgan? I think it is urgent that it be done. He can't be left an isolated voice.

Sincerely yours,

Melvin L. Wulf
Legal Director

Dear Abel:

Thank you for your letter. I have discussed this with Church & Son, who is opposite the truth eloquently at the proper moment, and others in Ginter's room. It is apparent that an endorsement from anyone up here does more harm than good. I am therefore, not making effort to have any more of this kind of correspondence.

Washington Office — 1101 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.; Lawrence Spitzer, Director; Julia M. Barrows, Executive Secretary

think
we will.
Pg 440
Pg 440

27 September 1963

Mr. Melvin L. Wulf
Legal Director
American Civil Liberties Union
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mel:

Thank you for your letter. I have discussed this with Chuck Morgan, who spoke the truth eloquently at the proper moment, and others in Birmingham. It is apparent that an endorsement from anyone up here does more harm than good down there. But we are making efforts to get other support down there, and I think we will.

Regards,

BURKE MARSHALL
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

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orney General
Division

United States Senate

PRESS GALLERY
WASHINGTON

Oct. 7, 1963

r. Burke Marshall
ustice Department
ashington, D. C.

ear Burke,

Birmingham never got around to this
ne somehow, but it wasn't all wasted effort.
ne "wheels" did read it there, and some of
has crept out in policy we have backed
editorials and in their private consultation
ith City Hall, etc.

Also Newark and a couple of other papers
in it, and Newark, as you know, has about the
ame percentage of negroes as Birmingham and
enty of problems of its own.

Regards,

Jim Free

9 October 1963

MEMORANDUM TO HONORABLE PIERRE SALINGER

Re: Birmingham

General Royall and Colonel Blaik are preparing a written report to the President. The Attorney General is presently of the opinion, however, that it should not be announced that they are giving the President a written report.

They have asked me to see if the President could see them this week. As of now, however, there is no date set for any report.

While in Birmingham, they met with local Negro leaders and with all parts of the white leadership -- political, business, and church. A biracial committee to deal with these racial problems was appointed by the Mayor last week and has had a meeting. This is in accordance with the understanding of last May. The meeting is a public fact. The Committee is headed by Bishop Carpenter of the Episcopal Diocese of Birmingham.

On Sunday an advertisement by the white so-called "power structure" of Birmingham appeared in the Birmingham News calling on the Council and Mayor to appoint Negro policemen. The Council has taken this under consideration and has announced that fact.

An unfulfilled commitment of last May is the hiring of Negro clerks by at least some of the department stores. No action has been taken on this.

Birmingham file

Robert Knight, Sherman and Sterling, New York City, advises that Victor Hurd, Chairman of America Fore Loyalty Group Insurance Companies, had written Casualty Insurance on the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham during the week of September 9 that a Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hurd's Atlanta manager, received a recommendation from his agent in Birmingham to the effect that the prospect of bombing made the policy on the church an unreasonable risk and recommended its cancellation. Mr. Hughes blocked the cancellation of the policy and has ordered the subsequent claim paid promptly.

The FBI might learn the precise names of Mr. Hughes and the Birmingham agent through Mr. Hurd and then interview them.